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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJECT: AYEC 1976/77 PROGRAM

REF: A) BELGRADE 5126; B) BELGRADE 4838

1. DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS EMBASSY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE BETTER

BALANCE BETWEEN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, ON THE ONE HAND, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T), ON THE OTHER, IN THE 1976/77 FULBRIGHT SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE WITH YUGOSLAVIA. AT SAME TIME, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND VITALITY OF THE AMERICAN-YUGOSLAV EDUCATION COMMISSION (AYEC) WHICH CONDUCTS THIS PROGRAM, SHOULD BE A HIGH PRIORITY US OBJECTIVE, A VIEW SHARED BY THE BOARD OF FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS (BFS). THE DEMISE OF AYEC AND ITS JOINTLY CONDUCTED EXCHANGES WOULD BE SETBACK FOR FULBRIGHT PROGRAM AND COULD BE MISINTERPRETED IN YUGOSLAVIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES AS INDICATING A LESSENED US

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INTEREST IN FULBRIGHT PROGRAM AS A WHOLE. FURTHERMORE,

WE QUESTION WHETHER WE CAN COUNT ON YUGOSLAV COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES BY OTHER MEANS SHOULD THIS CONTROVERSY LEAD TO AYEC DISSOLUTION.

2. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE YUGOSLAV AND US POSITION

APPEARS TO CENTER ON THE MEANING OF THE WORD "BALANCE". WHILE THE BFS WISHES TO SEE A "BALANCE" BETWEEN DISCIPLINES, THE BFS HAS NOT DEFINED "BALANCE" IN TERMS OF A 50-50 OR OTHER PRECISE RATIO. IN THE CASE OF THE SOMEWHAT SPECIAL TRAVEL-ONLY GRANT CATEGORY, BFS IN FACT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOME "BALANCE" IN THE 60-40 RANGE. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE THAT SINCE YUGOSLAVS HAVE PROPOSED TRAVEL-GRANT BREAKDOWN OF 16-10 IN S&T AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, RESPECTIVELY, AND EMBASSY HAS PROPOSED 14-10 (REFTEL B, PARA 6), THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF ONLY TWO S&T GRANTS BETWEEN THE TWO POSITIONS. WE FURTHER NOTE THAT 16-10 TRAVEL-GRANT BREAKDOWN IN PERCENTAGES IS 61.5-38.5 WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO DEPARTMENT AND BFS, PARTICULARLY SINCE AYEC HAS AGREED TO 50-50 RATIO IN AWARDING FULL GRANTS FOR 1977-78 PROGRAM.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT YUGOSLAVS BROKE OFF JULY 19 DISCUSSION OF TRAVEL-GRANT ISSUE ON QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE JUST WHEN EMBASSY WAS ATTEMPTING TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES PRECISELY ALONG THESE LINES. RATHER THAN LET THE MATTER REST WE BELIEVE OUR BEST COURSE NOW WOULD BE TO SHOW CONTINUED INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THE OVERALL FULBRIGHT PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE COULD CLEARLY STATE THAT OUR FLEXIBILITY APPLIES ONLY TO TRAVEL-GRANTS AND IN NO WAY CONSTITUTES PRECEDENT FOR REGULAR GRANTS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE THAT RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH THE YUGOSLAVS AT THE POINT WHERE THEY WERE BROKEN OFF WOULD BE WORTHWHILE AND NEED NOT INDICATE A CHANGE OF POSITION ON THE OVERALL "BALANCE" QUESTION. OUR VIEW IS REINFORCED BY THE USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WHICH EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD WITH DENES AND RUKAVINA IN THE INTERIM.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM IREX THAT THEIR RATIO OF 60-40 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN S&T AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES WAS DROPPED (AT YUGOSLAV INSISTENCE) FROM THEIR NEW AGREEMENT WITH FAITSECT, BUT ALLEN KASSOF ASSURES US THAT YUGOSLAVS CONTINUE TO HONOR THE 60-40 RATIO EVEN THOUGH IT IS NO LONGER STATED IN THE AGREEMENT. WE HAVE TOLD KASSOF OF OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT HIS FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS ISSUE WHICH COULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS IN IREX AND CU PROGRAMS ELSEWHERE IN EASTERN EUROPE. (FYI:

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA PROVIDES FOR NO MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES.)

5. WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, BUT WE ALSO RECOGNIZE AS LEGITIMATE YUGOSLAVS INTEREST IN S&T EXCHANGES. FURTHERMORE BOTH DEPARTMENT

AND BFS BELIEVE THE CONCEPT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IS NOT LIMITED TO THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES; S&T CAN ALSO MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION.

6. REGARDING EMBASSY QUERY AS TO DEPARTMENT'S RATIONALE FOR DIFFERENTIATING MEDICAL GRANTEES WITHIN PHYSICAL SCIENCE CATEGORY (PARA 10, REFGEL B), POINT WE WISHED TO SUGGEST IS THAT MAJOR EMPHASIS IN MEDICAL EXCHANGES IS ON PEOPLE RATHER THAN HARDWARE.

7. WE HOPE EMBASSY WILL FIND THE ABOVE POINTS USEFUL IN DISCUSSION OF TRAVEL ONLY GRANTS ISSUE AT UPCOMING AYEC MEETING. WE ALSO HOPE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS COULD BE ACHIEVED ON THIS ISSUE BEFORE BFS MEMBER JAMES BILLINGTON VISITS BELGRADE OCTOBER 5-9. IN ANY CASE, HE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS QUESTION ON BEHALF OF BFS DURING HIS VISIT. ROBINSON

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